

In the Claims

Please amend claims 9, 12, 13 and 16 as follows:

Claims 1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A hydrogen-occlusion alloy regenerating apparatus comprising a deterioration detecting means for sending a detection signal when a hydrogen-occlusion alloy filled in a hydrogen reservoir and capable of occluding and releasing hydrogen has been deteriorated due to the deposition of impurities, a remaining-amount detecting means for detecting a remaining amount of hydrogen occluded in the hydrogen-occlusion alloy and for sending a detection signal when an internal pressure of said hydrogen reservoir caused by a released hydrogen corresponding to the hydrogen remaining in the hydrogen-occlusion alloy is ~~not more than an upper limit~~ falls below a predetermined pressure used in the hydrogen reservoir, and a heating means for heating the hydrogen-occlusion alloy up to a temperature that is higher than a temperature for normal releasing of the hydrogen, to remove the impurities by the released hydrogen, based on both the detection signals from the remaining-amount detecting means and the deterioration detecting means.

10. (Previously Presented) A hydrogen-occlusion alloy regenerating apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said deterioration detecting means detects an amount of hydrogen occluded in said hydrogen-occlusion alloy, and sends the detection signal if the amount of hydrogen

occluded is smaller than an amount of hydrogen occluded when the hydrogen-occlusion alloy is normal.

11. (Previously Presented) A hydrogen-occlusion alloy regenerating apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said deterioration detecting means detects a rate of occlusion of hydrogen in said hydrogen-occlusion alloy, and sends the detection signal when the hydrogen-occlusion rate is lower than a hydrogen-occlusion rate provided when the hydrogen-occlusion alloy is normal.

12. (Currently Amended) A hydrogen-occlusion alloy regenerating apparatus for use in a fuel cell power generating system, the fuel cell power generating system including a reformer for producing a reformed gas containing hydrogen from a starting fuel, a fuel cell supplied with said reformed gas, a hydrogen reservoir containing a hydrogen-occlusion alloy capable of occluding and releasing the hydrogen in said reformed gas, and supplying the hydrogen released from said hydrogen-occlusion alloy to said fuel cell,

wherein said hydrogen-occlusion alloy regenerating apparatus comprises a deterioration detecting means for sending a detection signal when said hydrogen-occlusion alloy has been deteriorated due to the deposition of impurities in said reformed gas, a remaining-amount detecting means for detecting a remaining amount of hydrogen occluded in the hydrogen-occlusion alloy and for sending a detection signal when an internal pressure of said hydrogen reservoir caused by the released hydrogen corresponding to the hydrogen remaining in the hydrogen-occlusion alloy ~~is not more than an upper limit~~ falls below a predetermined pressure ~~used in the hydrogen reservoir~~, and a heating means for heating the hydrogen-occlusion alloy up

to a temperature that is higher than a temperature for normal releasing of the hydrogen, to
remove the impurities by the released hydrogen, based on both the detection signals from the
remaining-amount detecting means and the deterioration detecting means.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of regenerating a hydrogen-occlusion alloy comprising the
steps of: generating a deterioration detection signal when a hydrogen-occlusion alloy filled in a
hydrogen reservoir and capable of occluding and releasing hydrogen has been deteriorated due to
the deposition of impurities; detecting a remaining amount of hydrogen occluded in the
hydrogen-occlusion alloy and generating a remaining-amount detection signal when an internal
pressure of said hydrogen reservoir caused by a released hydrogen corresponding to the
hydrogen remaining in the hydrogen-occlusion alloy ~~is not more than an upper limit~~ falls below a
predetermined pressure used in the hydrogen reservoir; and heating the hydrogen-occlusion alloy
up to a temperature that is higher than a temperature for normal releasing of the hydrogen, to
remove the impurities by the released hydrogen, based on both the deterioration detection signal
and the remaining-amount detection signal.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of regenerating a hydrogen-occlusion alloy according to
claim 13, wherein said deterioration detection signal is generated when an amount of hydrogen
occluded in said hydrogen-occlusion alloy is detected to be smaller than an amount of hydrogen
occluded when the hydrogen-occlusion alloy is normal.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of regenerating a hydrogen-occlusion alloy according to claim 13, wherein said deterioration detection signal is generated when a rate of occlusion of hydrogen in said hydrogen-occlusion alloy is detected to be lower than a hydrogen-occlusion rate provided when the hydrogen-occlusion alloy is normal.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of regenerating a hydrogen-occlusion alloy in a fuel cell power generating system, the fuel cell power generating system including a reformer for producing a reformed gas containing hydrogen from a starting fuel, a fuel cell supplied with said reformed gas, a hydrogen reservoir containing a hydrogen-occlusion alloy capable of occluding and releasing the hydrogen in said reformed gas, and supplying the hydrogen released from said hydrogen-occlusion alloy to said fuel cell,

the method comprising the steps of: generating a deterioration detection signal when said hydrogen-occlusion alloy has been deteriorated due to the deposition of impurities in said reformed gas; detecting a remaining amount of hydrogen occluded in the hydrogen-occlusion alloy and generating a remaining-amount detection signal when an internal pressure of said hydrogen reservoir caused by the released hydrogen corresponding to the hydrogen remaining in the hydrogen-occlusion alloy ~~is not more than an upper limit~~ falls below a predetermined pressure ~~used in the hydrogen reservoir~~; and heating the hydrogen-occlusion alloy up to a temperature that is higher than a temperature for normal releasing of the hydrogen, to remove the impurities by the released hydrogen, based on both the deterioration detection signal and the remaining-amount detection signal.

17. (Previously Presented) A hydrogen-occlusion alloy regenerating method according to claim 16, wherein the hydrogen released from said hydrogen-occlusion alloy is utilized for operating said fuel cell.